

Bills Introduced To Fight Fouling of Maryland Waters

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ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 11 — A package of bills to strengthen water pollution abatement practices in Maryland was introduced today in the General Assembly.

The principal measure, submitted by Sen. J. Frank Raley Jr. (D-St. Marys) and seven other legislators would increase the jurisdiction and enforcement authority of the

Department of Water Resources.

The bill would give the Department authority to review activities of other agencies that might involve the discharge of materials into State waters. This would include mining operations, which often lead to stream pollution.

Other measures introduced by Raley would allow exemption or deductions for materials and equipment used by commercial or industrial enterprises to treat waste that enters rivers or streams.

Water pollution from many sources has affected various parts of the State. In Southern Maryland, it has harmed the seafood industry and has cut business at some beach resorts.

Stepped up pollution abatement procedures are part of a program that Southern Maryland lawmakers are backing to bolster their region against the economic losses they will suffer when slot machines are abolished.

In other legislative action today, the House gave tentative approval to a bill that would allow persons observing an assault to aid the victim without fear that the assailant might later sue them for injuries he might suffer.

At present, such legal protection is offered only to persons who are with the victim at the time of the assault. Bystanders can aid the victim but risk legal action themselves if they injure the assailant.

The House deferred action on a bill establishing procedures for removal of judges because of disability. The bill proposes that a commission investigating such cases report to the Court of Appeals, which would determine whether a judge should be removed.

An amendment to the measure would have the Legislature make the decision. Several lawmakers argued today that politics would enter the decision in either case.

There were these other developments today:

- The House passed bills extending the authority of the Prince Georges County Peoples Court in civil cases to amounts up to \$3,000 and raising the salaries of the people's court judges from \$12,500 to \$17,000 annually.

- The Prince Georges delegation said it is almost ready to introduce a bill giving the Washington Gas Light Company authority to condemn up to 12,000 acres in the southern part of the county for an underground gas storage depot.